Computerisation/modernisation of post offices in A.P.

448. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken a programme for computerisation and modernisation of post offices in Andhra Pradesh to keep pace with the present days requirements of the customers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of post offices in the States that stand computerised as on date and how many are proposed to be computerised during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Post offices are being computerised by setting up multi-purpose counter machines providing the public one-hop-stop service, cutting down drastically waiting time at the counter. The Department has also computerised many post offices in a LAN environment which includes Post Offices Savings Bank service. In addition, softwares have been developed for total computerisation of post offices both in front and back office functions with the help of technology. Satellite communication technology is also being used for transfer of money orders from one post office to another.

(c) Ninety Five post offices in Andhra Pradesh have been computerised and many more are in the offing during the next two years, depending on the availability of funds.

Shortage of Manpower in Telecom Sector

449. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether understaffing is the main cause for poor performance of the telecom sector in the country;

(b) if so, the category-wise shortage of manpower and the steps being taken to man the Department with optimum strength; and

(c) the compelling reasons for the Department remaining under staffed and the measures initiated to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) There is no overall shortage of staff in the